specifically for research on neem. The salient features of the results obtained so far in neem research in the country are:

(i) Identification and isolation of biologically active compounds from neem fo their exploitation for control of insects, nematodes and plant diseases;

(ii) Neem's role in insect pest management has been well established. Several effective extracts/fractions and pure products have been screened against a large number of pests; and

(iii) Stable and economical formulations for use under Indian conditions have been developed.

(b) Evaluation of neem products against various agricultural pests is an integral part of neem research and development. The research results are regularly presented and discussed in the workshops and seminars organised by different national agencies.

Neem is now recognised as an important potential alternative to chemical control and ICAR has included research on neem and other botanicals in its priorities for the VIII Plan.

(c) The progress of research in our institutes/projects is being regularly monitored and discussed in their respective workshops.

Significant progress has been made in utilizing neem in pest management programmes. Institutions like NCL, Pune; NRL, Hyderabad; and IARI, New Delhi have also been successful in developing neem formulations However, commercial exploitation has been rather slow.

(d) since the development of the entire process has not been perfected, it would be premature to ask HIL or any other public sector units to take up its manufacture.

Setting up of Analytical Units for Pesticides

1772. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: Whether Thacker Committee (1964) had recommended setting up of 2 Development Analytical Units and 2 Analytical Unit for collecting data on Pesticides and food, feeds, fodder and water and if so, the details of the action taken thereon and the information gathered indicating whether this information is easily available through publications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir. The Thacker Committee had recommended the setting up of two developmental analytical units at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) New Delhi and Central Food Technological Research Institute, (CFTRI), Mysore and two analytical units at Central Food Laboratory, Calcutta and Plant Quarantine Station, Bombay.

As a follow-up action, an analytical unit has been established at IARI, New Delhi. An All India Coordinated Research Project on Pesticide Residues is being operated at 18 different locations in the country. A residue analysis unit has been established at CFTRI, Mysore. Two analytical units for pesticide monitoring in food, feed and water have been established at Central Food Laboratory, Calcutta and Plant Quarantine Unit in Bombay.

The results of the analysis of the residue data are published regularly in the annual reports and other publications of the organisations generating the data.

Railway concessions to pensioners and aged people

1773. SHRIMATI MANORAMA PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pensioners and other general public above the age of 65 are entitled to 25% concession in Railway fares;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to issue identity cards to all pensioners at their cost showing therein their date of birth to enable them getting Railway concessions without experiencing any difficulty about their actual age; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir, 25% concession in second class is admissible to the senior citizens of the age of 65 years and above for travelling beyond 500 Kms.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to issue identity cards to the senior citizens as no proof of age is required at the time of purchasing tickets.

Unauthorised construction in Shahdara, Delhi

1774. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be be pleased to state:

(a) the details of unauthorised construction, encroachments on roads etc. on Vikas Marg and Laxmi Nagar:

(b) the number of cases where appropriate action was taken and result achieved therefrom; and

(c) whether such activities are still going on?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Municipal Corporation of Delhi has reported that during the period 1-1-90 to 24-5-90, 47 cases of unauthorised construction/encroachments on roads on Vikas Marg and Laxmi Nagar were detected and notices were issued under Sections 343 and 344 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act in all these cases.

(c) Unauthorised construction/ encroachment is a continuing process and as and when such activity is noticed, action under the provisions of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act is taken.

Modernisation of train services in North East

1775. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to modernise the train services in the North East;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide double line upto Dibrugarh; and

(c) whether Government are likely to take necessary steps to facilitate to run the trains in time and in a more speedy way ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Improvement in/Modernisation of train services on different Zones of Indian Railways (including North East Frontier) is a continuous process subject to operational feasibility and resource availability

(b) No, Sir